



LESSON 4

GOD GIVES THE LAW

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sets Apart His People

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20

GOD'S BIG STORY: God brings the Israelites to Mount Sinai to covenant with them. He gives them His good commandments so the world will know they are His set-apart people.

WORD OF WONDER: So I want you to realize that the LORD your God is God. He is the faithful God. He keeps his covenant for all time to come. He keeps it with those who love him and obey his commandments. He shows them his love. —Deuteronomy 7:9

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Welcome Question: When is a time you felt very special?
- Curiosity Questions
- Interactive Game: Share the Story
- Word of Wonder: Deuteronomy 7:9
- Word of Wonder Activity
- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Set Apart for Him



[Faithful Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sets Apart His People

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20

WORD OF WONDER: Deuteronomy 7:9

I was homeschooled until I went to high school. So my first few months of public school were good but challenging. I was different from the other kids—I didn't know all the slang; I hadn't had their experiences. I gradually adjusted and fit in. But there was always something different about me because I was a Christian. There were things I did and didn't do because of my faith.

In today's lesson, we see that God creates a people who are to be in the world but not of it. In many ways, they will operate like everyone else, but because of God's law and what it says, there will always be something different about them. Israel struggles with this all throughout the Old Testament. Many of us—and probably many of the kids you lead—struggle with this still today.

God calls His people to be set apart. It's not always easy. But when we walk in the way of the Lord and we look at His instructions, we realize His commands are good because He is good. We realize He's worth following.

God sets us apart to live for Him and to show others what He is like. That makes us different. But it's OK because our God is faithful.

—Denise Morris Snyder

Spiritual Formation Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Moses is an important figure throughout Scripture. God called him to lead His chosen people out of Egyptian slavery. Moses received the law, and God made His covenant with him (Exodus 19–24). Moses wandered the wilderness because of Israel’s disobedience and died without entering the Promised Land.

WHAT?

God led Israel out of slavery in Egypt and delivered them from the pursuing Egyptian army. God called His people together at the base of Mount Sinai to make His covenant with them. God spoke to Moses, giving him the Law, and Moses brought it to the people.

WHERE?

Mount Sinai is the same “mountain of God” where God first called to Moses from the burning bush. God said Israel would return to worship Him here after being set free (Exodus 3). Today it’s called *Jabal Musa* in Arabic, meaning “Mountain of Moses.”

WHEN?

Israel came to Mount Sinai on the first day of the third month after leaving Egypt. According to the Hebrew calendar, this may have been in late May or early June, since Passover is celebrated in the first month around March or April.

CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY

God led His people to Mount Sinai to receive the Law of God. It showed how they were to live as God’s chosen people. In Matthew 5–7, Jesus gave a sermon on a different mountain or hill. There Jesus said He had come to fulfill the Law, bringing all things to completion.

Small Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Sets Apart His People

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20

WORD OF WONDER: Deuteronomy 7:9

Pre-Service (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: [Coloring Page](#)

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have play stations with various board games, activities, or use games from the extra Games & Activities Guide to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them!

Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Allow quieter kids who don't engage with the board games to color. Involve them in the curiosity questions.

While kids are playing in their opening activity groups..

Pose the following “I’m curious” questions. Say “I’m curious...” before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

- **What are some ways God is different from us?**
- **What are some ways God wants us to be different—and special— from people who don’t follow Him?**

Small Group Begins: Welcome Question 2–3 min

SUPPLIES: whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils

As kids arrive, invite them to write/draw the answer to the Welcome Question:

"When is a time you felt very special?" Set out sheets of paper and colored pencils.

Right at your service time, move into Small Group time by sharing your own answers and allowing kids to talk about their answers.

Interactive Game: Share the Story

Let kids know you'll share a sentence to start a story. The kid to your left will then think of a sentence to add to the story. The kid to that person's left will then add another sentence to the story. The kids will continue around the circle until it comes back to you, and you can close the story out with a final sentence.

Leader Tip: If you have a large group, consider one of these options: 1. Invite 5–10 kids to participate in each round. After a set number of kids add on to the story, you can finish it with a closing sentence. Then start the next round wherever you left off in the circle. 2. Help kids form smaller groups of 5–10 kids, and assign a youth or adult leader to each group. Give a copy of the story starters to each leader.

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. Younger kids may have a harder time coming up with ideas or knowing when to start or stop. Help them along by prompting them with ideas and making sure to thank them for their contributions.

Start the story with a silly opening line such as: "Once upon a time there was a tiger who loved to dance." Play a few rounds of the game with a new opening sentence each time. If kids start to take the story in an uncomfortable or inappropriate direction, step in to finish the story early. Then move on to a new story. Consider using any or all of the following or coming up with your own:

"Once upon a time there was a boy who wished he were in the circus."

"Once upon a time there was a dog who found a huge diamond."

"Once upon a time there was a girl who was a black belt in karate."

"Once upon a time there was a pigeon who became a famous movie star."

"Wow! Our stories turned out pretty silly, and some were kind of odd and surprising."

Ask:

- Did our stories make sense?
- What was the most surprising thing in our stories?

WORD OF WONDER

So I want you to realize that the LORD your God is God. He is the faithful God. He keeps his covenant for all time to come. He keeps it with those who love him and obey his commandments. He shows them his love.

—Deuteronomy 7:9 (NirV)

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

"The Word of Wonder for the Faithful series is Deuteronomy 7:9. God made special promises to His people and set them apart to live for Him through the commandments He gave them. This verse reminds us that God keeps His promises and loves it when we obey His good commandments. Let's read the Word of Wonder together!"

Invite kids to open their Bibles to Deuteronomy 7:9. Read the verse aloud to the kids as they sit on the floor. Then invite everyone to stand and ask another leader to read it aloud again. Now encourage everyone to follow along with the verse in their Bibles as you read it again. Finally, invite everyone to read it aloud together.

Gather kids to talk about these questions:

- **If the only thing you had ever heard about God was this verse, what would you know about Him?**
- **What does this verse say about how we show God our love?**

Word of Wonder Activity

SUPPLIES: chairs (2 fewer than the number of kids)

RESOURCES: [Faithful Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Invite the kids to play a fun game of musical chairs to work on memorizing the Word of Wonder together.

Create a circle of chairs, but make sure there are two fewer chairs than kids. Invite the kids to stand inside the circle of chairs. When you play music from the [Faithful Elementary Spotify playlist](#), the kids should move around the chairs slowly, and when you stop the music, they should all try to sit down in a chair. The two kids who don't get chairs this round can stand in the middle of the circle and say the Word of Wonder together. After they say it, invite everyone to stand up and say it together.

Play a few rounds, inviting kids to recite the verse each time.

Make It Inclusive!

If you have kids who aren't as mobile, invite them to be in charge of starting and stopping the music. Make sure they get opportunities to recite the Word of Wonder as well!

Small Group Discussion: Younger Kids 5–8 min

Invite kids to grab their Bibles, and help them find Exodus. Remind kids that the large numbers are chapter numbers, and small numbers are verse numbers. Explain that today's Bible passage is in Exodus, the second book of the Bible, right after Genesis. Invite kids to open their Bibles to Exodus 1. Tell kids that Exodus means "a group of people leaving a place"—in this case, Moses' and God people, the Israelites.

Read Pharaoh's words from Exodus 20:2–4, the second to read verses 7–9, the third to read verses 12–17, and the fourth to read verses 20–23.

- **Where had God's people been just before they came to Mount Sinai?**
- **What were some of the commandments God gave His people?**
- **Why do you think God gave His people commandments?**
- **What do you think it means for someone to be "set apart"?**
- **How do the commandments set God's people apart?**
- **Why do you think God wants us to be set apart?**
- **Give time for kids to respond and consider**

"God showed up on Mount Sinai and gave His commandments to His people. His commands would help them to be set apart and live for Him, showing others what He is like. God invites us to be His set-apart people too. Let's spend some time praying and praising God for how amazing He is!"

Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Invite kids to share prayer requests and highlights from the week they want to thank God for. Consider sharing some of your own praises and requests as well. Then allow a few volunteers to pray for one another and close by thanking God for setting us apart as His people and caring for us.

Small Group Discussion: Older Kids 8–12 min

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Invite kids to grab their Bibles. Remind kids that the large numbers are chapter numbers, and small numbers are verse numbers. Explain that today’s Bible passage is in Exodus, the second book of the Bible, right after Genesis. Invite kids to open their Bibles to Exodus 1. Tell kids that Exodus means “a group of people leaving a place”—in this case, Moses’ and God’s people, the Israelites.

Give a brief overview of the history and context using the info on page 3 of this guide.

Exodus 20:2–4, the second to read verses 7–9, the third to read verses 12–17, and the fourth to read verses 20–23.

- **Who was the man who helped lead the Israelites out of Egypt?**
- **What is an unbreakable promise called in the Bible?**
- **What were some of the commandments God gave His people?**
- **Why does God want us to obey Him and His commands?**
- **What do you think it would have been like to be on Mount Sinai when God was there?**
- **What does it mean to be God’s set-apart people?**
- **What are some ways you can be set apart for God?**

God gave His people good commandments so they could obey Him and show their love for Him. He set them apart, inviting them to live differently than others who don’t love and follow Him. God invites us to be His set-apart people too. Let’s take some time to pray and ask God to help us live for Him!

Prayer Time: Older Kids

Encourage kids to share some prayer requests about areas where they need the Lord to help them be set apart and live for Him. They may want to share with a partner or with the whole group. Encourage a few people to pray for the whole group and close by thanking God for helping us live His way with the help of His Spirit.

Older Kids – Notes Page

**Complete the Notes Page with kids. Helping them to fill out all of the spaces. This is an important way for parents to see what their kids are learning each way and have meaningful conversations at home!

Large Group!

Responding in Worship: Set Apart for Him

SUPPLIES: pens or pencils (1 per kid)

RESOURCES: [Set Apart for Him Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#), [Faithful Elementary Spotify playlist](#) (optional)

Ahead of time, print copies of the Set Apart for Him Sheet (one per kid).

Gather kids together.

In God's big story, He chose His people, the Israelites, and set them apart to live according to His good ways. And the same is true of us! God has chosen us and set us apart as His very own!

Give each kid a copy of the Set Apart for Him Sheet and a pen or pencil. **God made you special and set you apart. He's given each of you special gifts and talents and abilities you can use to serve Him and to praise Him and to show others what God is like. On this sheet are two stone tablets, similar to those God wrote the 10 commandments on. On the first stone tablet, write or draw three ways God has made you special.**

Give kids time to thoughtfully respond. Consider playing music from the [Faithful Elementary Spotify playlist](#) while they respond. After a few minutes, encourage several volunteers to share some of the ways God has made them special.

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. Help younger kids with this activity by pointing out what you see in them that makes them special and unique. Take time to encourage them in their God-given gifts.

God has blessed us in so many ways! Because God has set us apart and made us special, He wants to show us the very best way to live. That's why He gave His people, the Israelites, the 10 commandments—so they could walk in God's way and know His good commands.

Encourage kids to look at the list of commandments. Encourage them to write down on the second stone tablet two commands they want God to help them work on. If you have younger kids, read the commandments out loud from the slide. Remind kids that we follow God's good instructions because He knows the very best way for us to live and wants us to be set apart for Him. Encourage them with the truth that God gives us His Spirit—the Holy Spirit—to help us live God's way!

After a few minutes, close your time by asking a few volunteers to pray that the kids in your group would follow God through the help of the Holy Spirit as they live set-apart lives.

